

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application, of which Claims 1-9 and 11-16 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 10 is amended, support for which is found in the originally filed disclosure, including the drawings at least in Figs. 6 and 8. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. 6,416,904 (Reimers) in view of U.S. 6,027,835 (Fukumura).

Claim 10 recites:

A process for producing a cell electrode plate comprising a band-like core member made of metal foil, the method comprising:

applying a plurality of sheets of electrode active material discontinuously on and longitudinally of at least one of upper and lower surfaces of the core member, wherein

at least one of the sheets of electrode active material in a same plane as one of the upper and lower surfaces of the core member has end positions widthwise of the core member which are different from end positions of other sheets of electrode active material on the same plane widthwise of the core member, providing the sheets of electrode active material on said core member.

[Emphasis added].

As emphasized above, Claim 10 defines a process of producing a cell electrode plate comprising a band-like core member made of metal foil and sheets of electrode active material provided thereon. In particular, the sheets of electrode active material are applied discontinuously on and longitudinally of at least one of upper and lower surfaces of the core member. Further, at least one of the sheets in the same plane as one of the upper and lower surfaces of the core member has end positions widthwise of the core member. The end positions are different from end positions of other sheets on the same plane widthwise of the core member. It is respectfully submitted the art of record fails to disclose or reasonably suggest these features.

The Office Action acknowledges Reimers fails to disclose a sheet of electrode active material which has end positions widthwise of the core member which are different from end positions of other sheets widthwise of the core member. The Office Action relies on Fukumura to describe this feature.¹ However, it is respectfully submitted both Reimers and Fukumura fail to disclose or reasonably suggest this feature as further clarified by the above-noted amendment.

Fukumura describes a current collector 41 and electrode layers 42a and 42b formed on upper and lower surfaces thereof.² The Office Action alleges Fukumura describes these electrode layers as shifted widthwise on the current collector and that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of invention to combine this feature with the features of Reimers. However, it is respectfully submitted Fukumura fails to disclose or reasonably suggest “at least one of the sheets of electrode active material in a same plane as one of the upper and lower surfaces of the core member *has end positions widthwise of the core member which are different from end positions of other sheets of electrode active material on the same plane widthwise of the core member*,” as recited in Claim 10 (emphasis added).

In Fukumura, the electrode layers have end positions widthwise of the core member which are different form the end positions of other sheets of electrode active material (i.e., Figs. 4A-4C of Fukumura each show end positions differing between upper and lower electrode layers). However, Fukumura does not disclose that a sheet of electrode active material in a same plane of the core member has end positions widthwise of the core member which are different from end positions of other sheets of electrode active material in the same plane of the core member, as required by Claim 10.

¹ Office Action, page 3.

² Fukumura, Figs. 4A-4C.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted the art of record fails to disclose or reasonably suggest the features of Claim 10 and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Should the examiner disagree, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss any remaining issues. Otherwise, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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